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***“Il parle normal, il parle comme nous”: self-reported usage and attitudes
in a banlieue.***

Maria Secova (Open University)

Penelope Gardner-Chloros (Birkbeck, University of London)

Frédérique Atangana (Université Paris 3, Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Abstract

We report on a survey of language attitudes carried out as part of a project comparing youth language in Paris and London.¹ As in similar studies carried out in London (Cheshire et al. 2008), Berlin (Wiese 2009) and elsewhere (Boyd et al. 2015), the focus was on features considered typical of ‘contemporary urban vernaculars’ (Rampton 2015).

The respondents were pupils aged 15-18 in two secondary schools in a working-class northern suburb of Paris. The survey included (1) a written questionnaire containing examples of features potentially undergoing change in contemporary French; (2) an analysis of reactions to extracts from the project data: participants were asked to comment on the speakers and the features identified.

Quantitative analysis had shown that some of these features are more widespread than others and are used by certain categories of speaker more than others (Gardner-Chloros and Secova, 2018). This study provides a qualitative dimension, showing that different features have different degrees of perceptual salience and acceptability. It demonstrates that youth varieties do not involve characteristic features being used as a ‘package’, and that such changes interact in a complex manner with attitudinal factors. The study also provides material for reflection on the role of attitude studies within sociolinguistic surveys.

1. Introduction

¹ ESRC-RES-062330006: Multicultural London English–Multicultural Paris French, 2010-2014 (www.mle-mpf.bbk.ac.uk). The Paris corpus was collected between 2011-2013 and contains 34 recordings representing approximately 50 hours of speech and 341K words.

The ‘Multicultural Paris French’ project (henceforth referred to as ‘MPF’) identified several potentially innovative linguistic features among young speakers in the banlieues. So far, little is known about the connotations such features carry and the attitudes they evoke among the speakers themselves, and it is the object of this study to contribute to filling this gap. Unlike the position, for example, in the UK, in France a conservative version of ‘*le bon français*’ is idealised as a symbol of national unity and identity (as also seen in recent debates on new language reforms, see *Libération* 17/11/2017). Normative and prescriptive views at the state and institutional level are particularly strong (Haugen 1966, Lodge 1991), and movements for change are resisted and often ridiculed by commentators. Encrevé described the prevailing ideology of the French language as ‘une forme pathologique de la passion de l’égalité’ (Encrevé, 2007: 26): the prestige norm is not only valued, as standard varieties are elsewhere, but is considered a criterion of ‘Frenchness’ (Lodge 2004)². Attitudes towards non-mainstream varieties are less well understood; methodologically speaking, these varieties cannot be ‘parcelled’ and identified in the same way as standard varieties, especially outside phonological aspects. In addition, such varieties can sometimes be considered a taboo subject (see Stewart 2012, who discusses the ‘socially sensitive’ question of banlieue speech). Speakers of migrant origin may find themselves doubly ‘separated’ from the mainstream: firstly through not speaking in a standard way, and secondly through using varieties which are considered in some way as ‘foreign’ by the social elite. As a result, as Gal (2006) has said, ‘migrant and minority speakers sometimes see themselves through the ‘eyes’ of standard ideologies and hence devalue their own speech. Alternatively they may reject standard ideology and construct opposing perspectives’ (p.165) – which is arguably what we find here.

In this paper, we investigate attitudes towards various linguistic features in the community in which they were observed, i.e. in a multi-ethnic, multicultural suburban area of Paris. We describe respondents’ evaluative reactions and attitudes first towards specific features, and second towards recordings of speakers selected as representative of the MPF corpus. The respondents share the same socio-demographic characteristics as the participants in the MPF study, and it was therefore unlikely that their views would be determined by the

² Note for example that the French citizenship test involves an advanced language test.

traditional normative views referred to above. The study extends the scope of the literature on language attitudes towards peripheral language varieties in France, by investigating how language innovations are perceived in communities where they are actually present. Features associated with young people are often stigmatised as a sign of inarticulateness, and attitudes towards such features are mainly discussed, notably in the media, from the point of view of out-group members or the general public. Studies on innovation and change tend to be limited to relatively isolated linguistic features and are often 'disconnected' from the reality of those who use such features. Yet, we believe that the views of those whose language is investigated are important for understanding the complex mechanisms of language variation and change. This paper, therefore, seeks to examine both self-reported usage and respondents' perception and views of certain variables, in order to advance our understanding of language change from the perspective of the putative innovators.

2. Attitudes within sociolinguistic research

2.1 Research on language attitudes

Understanding speakers' attitudes towards their own speech and that of their peers has been a crucial aspect of sociolinguistic research ever since the early work of Labov in New York City (1966). In his classic paper 'Language with an Attitude', Preston writes that linguistic attitude studies need to ask two questions: "[...] what are the linguistic facts of identification and reaction, and what are the underlying constructs which promote and support them?" (2004:64). Both of these aspects are discussed below.

Social psychologists of language define language attitudes as "any affective, cognitive or behavioral index of evaluative reactions toward different language varieties or their speakers" (Ryan et al. 1982: 7). As attitudes cannot be observed as such, a variety of techniques have been employed to investigate them, from the most direct, i.e. questionnaires involving agreeing more or less strongly with a list of statements (Garrett 2010), to the more disguised, such as the matched or verbal guise technique (Lambert *et al.* 1960, Kircher 2016). Using such techniques, attitudes towards particular languages have often been measured in the context of minority language survival (Baker 1992), though there are also studies

examining attitudes to different varieties of particular languages (e.g. Stewart 2009, Kircher 2012).

In carrying out such studies, social psychologists distinguish between direct (or explicit) measures of attitudes, in which participants are asked various types of question (and which are by far the most commonly used), and indirect (or implicit ones), in which participants react to a stimulus but are not asked anything directly (Haddock and Maio 2014). Although the present study is not a classic social psychological one, its results are consistent with Haddock and Maio's remark that results of implicit attitude studies do not always correspond to those of explicit ones. In this case the replies to the question: '*Do you use this form?*' constitute the direct evidence, and the judgements expressed about recorded speakers who are using the same forms constitute the indirect evidence. Haddock and Maio claim that indirect measures have advantages in that they are (a) less affected by concerns about the social desirability of the opinions expressed and (b) predict variability in behaviour which cannot be explained by explicit measures on their own (ibid., 53-54). These advantages would appear to hold good when using indirect methods in the field of linguistic variation; it is clear for example that respondents' attitudes to *speakers* who use certain variants are not purely determined by the use of those variants. For example they might express negativity towards standard forms when these are presented in isolation, but nevertheless express a positive attitude towards a teacher who speaks in a standard way. It is precisely by unpicking such apparent contradictions in people's attitudes that a more specific understanding of the latter can emerge. Overall, for example, negative attitudes towards non-standard varieties are well documented across languages, notably when it comes to status-related traits such as competence (e.g. Edwards 1979, Stewart 2012, Kerswill 2014, Wiese 2014, Dragojevic *et al.* 2016). However, it is not the same for traits relating to solidarity (Preston 2004) and the assumption that there is a positive predisposition towards the standard variety alone tends to be based on the attitudes of middle- and upper-class speakers (Beckford-Wassink, 1999: 59; see also Cheshire and Stein 1997). While the educational and institutional usefulness of the standard language cannot be denied, sociolinguistic studies have shown that the notion of 'standard' plays out differently in different contexts. In France, the symbolic character of the standard language is detached from everyday vernacular varieties

such as *le français ordinaire* (Gadet 1989) – itself long considered more homogeneous than it is - and even more so from ‘peripheral’ varieties such as the multiethnic youth language spoken in urban areas. Yet, as we will see below, young speakers often reverse traditional values attached to different language varieties and redefine what is considered positive, acceptable or even correct, thus in practice emphasising the solidarity dimension rather than that of status. Our study confirms through a non-classic methodology that status and solidarity within the same communities often follow different paths. For example Kircher (2012) found that attitudes towards Quebec French had improved since the 1980s as regards solidarity, though not as regards status. It is also of relevance to this study that second and third generation immigrants, faced with linguistic assimilationist policies by the State, often “engage in personal and collective strategies for achieving and maintaining a ‘positive distinctiveness’ vis-à-vis salient or rival linguistic outgroups” (Bourhis, El-Geledi and Sachdev, 2007: 39).

While social psychologists tend to talk of status, sociolinguists, ever since Labov’s early studies in Martha’s Vineyard and New York City (1963, 1966), and Trudgill’s (1972) work in Norwich, have worked with the concept of prestige. Trudgill demonstrated that some people – in that study, working-class men - were prone to *over-report* their use of vernacular features, just as others – mainly women - over-reported their use of RP variants. The ostensibly simple device of comparing how speakers *actually* spoke with how they said they spoke proved a fruitful way to reveal linguistic attitudes without asking about them directly. Since then, research in numerous contexts (some of which is reviewed below) has described speech configurations and speaker choices where the drive to approximate to the variety carrying the most status in the society at large, however this is perceived, is not the speakers’ only or main underlying motivation – if indeed it is a motivation at all.

In recent work, linguistic prestige continues to be a productive concept, which has now been shown to be multi-dimensional (Hawkey 2016). The perception of prestige is contingent on the type of linguistic situation, the type of speaker and the context in which the linguistic material is presented. Increasing relativism in applying the concept of linguistic prestige is heightened by the fact

that, as Coupland (2009) has pointed out, standards hold less determinate and more complex values in late modernity (see also Milroy 2007).

This relativism is also multi-dimensional. Dragojevic and Giles (2014), the latter a pioneer of the matched guise technique, showed how attitudes and expressions of solidarity vary depending on the frame of reference within which judgements are presented: local, regional or international. A study by Bellamy (2012) investigated language attitudes in Britain and Austria, looking at which varieties of the national language carry higher or lower prestige, and demonstrating the impact of the different configuration in which the standard is embedded in each country (diglossic in Austria v. dialectal continuum in Britain). Schneider (2016) shows that speakers express solidarity in relation to a number of code-switched varieties spoken round the world, which would certainly not be considered 'standard'. Hedgecock and Lefkowitz (2000), in a study among students learning French, show that prestige, measured here by the way the students *wish* to speak, is not necessarily unidirectional even in the normative environment of the language classroom. This research points to a need to adapt attitude studies to the precise circumstances of the study. It also suggests (a) that it can be advantageous to view language attitudes in parallel with actual behaviour and practice, since the two do not always map onto one another; and (b) that attitudes should be assessed through varied methodological means where possible. We have tried to achieve this in this study.

2.2 Language attitudes in France

In the French context – and particularly in Paris – studies examining attitudes towards innovative and changing features are rare and concentrate almost exclusively on judgements of accent. An early study by Paltridge and Giles (1984), for example, tested attitudes towards speakers with various regional accents, finding that older respondents were more generous in their judgements, and were prepared to say that regional accents carried the same appeal in professional contexts as supposedly 'non-accented' voices. However recent work on attitudes to accents, including *banlieue* accents, confirms the ongoing existence of negative stereotypes concerning non-mainstream varieties (Armstrong and Boughton 1987; Hawkins 1993; Kuiper 2005; Stewart and Fagyal 2005; Stewart 2012). The prestige of non-regionally marked metropolitan French

is also attested in other Francophone contexts such as Quebec (Kircher 2012). Castellotti & Robillard (2003) and Paveau (2008) show however that varieties traditionally considered as prestigious can also elicit negative reactions and be considered snobbish, and that views as to which variety is most 'correct' need not coincide with which one is best liked (Kuiper 2005). Boughton (2006), using authentic speech samples, confirmed the existence of social and geographical stereotyping in Northern France, but not specifically in Paris. Stewart's (2009) work casts light on the relationship between socio-geographic segregation and sociolinguistic stratification within the Paris region, with *banlieue* phonological features being clearly associated with specific locations and viewed negatively by respondents from a wider Paris area. Overall, despite intense media interest in the putative 'impoverishment' of French said to be brought about by youth vernaculars, up to now these have been the subject of scant academic analysis and that which exists often relies on the opinions of speakers with no direct relationship to the communities themselves (Boyer 2001).

3. Methodology

Our survey was carried out in two secondary schools in two predominantly working-class towns in a northern suburb of Paris: Le Raincy and Epinay-sur-Seine. It consisted first in a written questionnaire given to 35 pupils aged 15-18, of whom 72% were female and 28% male³. The sample was highly ethnically diverse, as defined by the origin of parents (8.6% were of local French and 91.4% of various immigrant origins). This differed slightly from the ethnic composition of the speakers in the overall MPF corpus, in which 30% of speakers were of local French descent (both parents born in France). Table (1) outlines the ethnic composition of the speakers in both studies.

³ The gender balance in the classrooms studied was unfortunately beyond our control. Also, due to the small participant sample, it is difficult to make any wide-ranging generalisations based on the quantitative and qualitative findings.

Table 1: Ethnic backgrounds

	MPF (%)	Current study (%)
Local French	30	8.6
North African	24	27.5
Sub-Saharan African	13	18
West Indian	4	14
Mixed parentage	20	8.4
Other backgrounds	9	23.5

The study was collected by two experienced female researchers, both near-native speakers of standard French. They were introduced by the teacher during whose lesson the study took place, but who left before the study began. The respondents were advised that the results would be anonymous and encouraged to make their responses as honest as possible.⁴

Part (A) of the questionnaire (see Appendix) used written examples of linguistic features identified in the MPF project recordings. The quantitative results of the MPF project had shown, unsurprisingly, that some of these features were more widespread than others. The questionnaire also permitted a quantitative evaluation of the popularity of these features, but added a significant qualitative dimension by soliciting pupils' evaluative comments and exploring their perceptions of, and attitudes towards, the type of speakers likely to use them. As Hawkey (2016) pointed out, metacommentary by speakers (or the lack of it) provides an essential element to understand whether change is occurring 'from above' (i.e. whether it is conscious) or from below (unconscious). Part (B) used audio extracts from the same set of recordings, illustrating a variety of features including phonological variants which had been noted in the corpus. In Part (B), the object of which was to understand the pupils' categorisations, identifications and any stereotypes associated with the stimuli, views on pronunciation and accent were naturally a more prominent focus. As other studies have shown, attempts to study attitudes to phonological features separately from other levels of language are methodologically challenging and the

⁴ The fact of being in a school setting had the potential to skew the students' reactions towards forms generally stigmatised by teachers, but this effect was minimised by the teachers' absence. This is confirmed by the informal atmosphere and by the loud and spontaneous comments the pupils shared aloud.

material used as a stimulus may, of necessity, depart markedly from natural speech; for example, Stewart (2009) made use of artificially synthesised stimuli and Stewart and Fagyal (2005) studied reactions to single words.

Part (A) of the questionnaire contained 45 authentic sentences from transcripts of the MPF corpus. The questionnaire targeted features at all linguistic levels, namely grammar, vocabulary, discourse and phonology (the latter was presented by playing extracts from the recordings).

Inevitably, while the aim was to cover all language levels, they were not represented equally, as some features were more widespread than others and/or had a larger type/token ratio.⁵ Each sentence was followed by these questions:

- a) Would you use a sentence like this? (Answers: frequently, sometimes, never)
- b) Who would you use a sentence like this with? (Answers: with everyone, including both younger and older people; only with family and friends; only with friends)
- c) In what context would you use a sentence like this? (Answers: both in speech and in writing; only in speech⁶).

The complete list of items can be found in the Appendix.

In Part (B), pupils were asked to give their opinion on the pronunciation of five speakers representative of the MPF corpus; it is of course possible, as mentioned above, that the opinions expressed were influenced by non-phonological aspects of the passages (listed separately in Table 2), e.g. the content of what was said. This is an inevitable side-effect of using natural speech as the stimulus. The extracts, each of a similar length, were chosen to illustrate a variety of accents, styles and ethnic origins characteristic of the corpus, from more standard speech containing few innovative and vernacular features, to more colloquial speech containing many such features. This method departs from the matched guise technique as it uses different speakers with noticeably different linguistic repertoires, and is closer to the verbal guise technique (see Kircher 2016). The use of a mixed-method approach was intended to provide information on attitudes linked to all linguistic levels. Additional comments on the questionnaire provided further nuanced qualitative data.

⁵ E.g. The category of 'verlan vocabulary' contained a large number of items, whereas the 'types of quotative' contained fewer items.

⁶ As explained below, the speech/writing distinction proved not to be straightforward.

Table (2) lists the linguistic characteristics of the extracts chosen for Part (B) of the survey.

Table 2: Recorded extracts

Speaker	Origin	Gender	Age	Phonological features	Grammatical and discourse features	Use of MPF features
1. Nizar	Algerian	M	19	- Palatalisation - Pharyngeal /R/ - Fast pace / rhythm	- Verlan - Address terms - Intensifiers	Moderate/heavy
2. Aimee	Guinean	F	14	- Pharyngeal /R/ - Fast pace / rhythm	- Discourse markers - General extenders - Quotatives - Segmented syntax	Heavy
3. Mouna	Moroccan	F	14	- Accent on penultimate syllable - Palatalisation	- Discourse markers - Word shortening	Moderate / mild
4. Samuel	Haitian	M	29	- Accent on penultimate syllable - Palatalisation	- Discourse markers - General extenders	Moderate/heavy
5. Fatima	Algerian	F	17	- Relatively standard pronunciation	- Relatively standard features	None / mild

4. Results

4.1 Quantitative results

We first examine the results for self-reported use in different linguistic categories. The total number of replies in each of the possible responses (i.e. frequently, occasionally, never) was converted to a single standardised score on a scale from 1 to -1. A score closer to 1 represented a more frequent usage (i.e. more people reported using the expression *frequently*), whereas a score closer to -1 showed a less frequent usage (i.e. more people reported *never* using the expression).

4.1.1 Lexical features

The vast majority of lexical items were reported as being used frequently (as shown by values above 0), suggesting that the innovations contained in these sentences were considered authentic (Appendix A2). It emerges that *verlan*, a form of slang based on inverting syllables, is still productive, as evidenced by high rates of use for words such as *téma* ('mater'/regarder), *chelou* ('louche'), *de ouf* ('de fou') *comme aç* ('comme ça') or *wam* ('moi'). This also shows that *verlan* does not affect only nouns, but also adjectives and verbs, and more sporadically

demonstrative and personal pronouns. There were also some ‘frequent’ results in the category of foreign-derived slang (e.g. *avoir le seum*, from Arabic, ‘to be gutted’, *avoir du swag*, from English *swagger*, meaning ‘to have style’), while others were less frequent (e.g. *wallah*, ‘I swear’, *krari*, ‘like/as if’). The stigmatised term *wesh* is relatively common, showing a score of 0.41. Despite the widespread stereotype linking this term to humorous portrayals of disaffected suburban youth, in the MPF data this form is used in meaningful ways, either as a clause-final focusing device or as an affective greeting indexing ingroup solidarity. Opinions on other lexical items were divided, some items being relatively popular (e.g. *mort de rire*, equivalent to ‘LOL’, *fraîche*, ‘cool/pretty’, *daronne*, ‘mother’) and others less so (e.g. *terre-terre*, ‘ends’, *tchoin*, ‘sket’).

4.1.2 Discourse-pragmatic features

Although less frequent than lexical features, the questionnaire included several examples of discourse-pragmatic forms identified as undergoing grammaticalisation, such as discourse markers (e.g. *genre*, ‘like’), quotatives (e.g. *être là*, literally ‘be there’, *faire genre*, ‘do like’) and general extenders (e.g. *et tout*, ‘and all’, *tout ça*, ‘all that’). Among these, the discourse marker *genre* is shown to be very popular, reaching a score of 0.53, indicating frequent use. This is consistent with previous research on youth discourse markers in French, which shows increased rates of use and many cross-linguistic similarities, especially of *genre* with English *like* (Fleischman and Yaguello 2004). Among innovative quotatives, respondents reported using *être là* and *faire genre* fairly frequently, with scores of 0.25 and 0.16, respectively. This is significant as the sentences did not contain any noticeable lexical distractors, so it is likely that the pupils commented on the actual quotative forms involved (for a detailed analysis of quotatives, see Cheshire and Secova, 2018). A similar result is obtained for the general extender *et tout*, displaying a score of 0.16. This positive result is consistent with previous research suggesting that *et tout* is grammaticalising and rising in frequency in spoken French, especially among younger generations (Secova 2017).

Lastly within this category, intensifiers are worth scrutinising, as they commonly display a tendency to change from generation to generation and reveal a preference among young people for specific variants (Tagliamonte 2016). As our

results show, some intensifiers such as *grave* and *trop* are extremely popular, while others are (now) disfavoured (e.g. *méga* or *vachement*).

4.1.3 Grammatical features

The most striking grammatical innovation found in the MPF data is the use of embedded *in-situ* questions (e.g. *je vois pas c'est qui*), which are the focus of Gardner-Chloros and Secova (2018). We noted here that 3 out of 4 *in-situ* questions (item 12, 29, 34 and 37) were reported as frequently used. The older variant *qu'est-ce que* (item 27, *c'est pas bien qu'est-ce que tu fais*) is unpopular, which is consistent with the results of the MPF analyses showing that only 0.04% of all indirect questions in the corpus are of this type. The MPF results also show that the *in-situ* variant is preferred in shorter, primarily 2-syllable clauses. This is confirmed by the results of the questionnaire in which short clauses, such as *c'est qui*, *c'est où* and *y'a quoi* obtained positive scores of use. The only *in-situ* question obtaining a negative score (item 37, *tu sais elle faisait quoi la mère*) is comparatively longer.

Another noteworthy result concerns word-shortening, potentially related to changes of grammatical category; new forms included *direct*, *normal*, *sérieux*, used adverbially. These items had a high score for use, suggesting that word- and phrase shortening is a productive word-alteration strategy, as is decategorisation, manifest in expressions such as *sociable de ouf* (the adjectival expression *de fou* is here used adverbially).

Other changes attested in the MPF data were not confirmed in the results of the questionnaire. Perhaps seeing innovative features in writing raised students' awareness of their 'non-standard' character, as in the case of the plural *normals* instead of *normaux* in item (33). However, the lack of open comments on most grammatical innovations in the questionnaire suggests that, overall, such variation goes largely unnoticed by the respondents.

4.1.4 Contexts of use

The second question about each item on the questionnaire probed into contexts of use, asking whether students used the innovative expressions with everyone, just with family and friends, or only with friends. Table (3) outlines the results for items that had a positive result for self-reported use, classifying them into 3 contexts of use. Results for all items are in Appendix (A3) showing their

standardised score on a scale from 1 (used with *everyone*) to -1 (used only with *friends*).

Table (3): Contexts of use

Everyone	Family and Friends	Friends only
5. Que dalle ! 8. Il s'habille bien, il a du swag. 12. Je vois pas c'est qui. 14. On est parti direct. 15. Depuis qu'ils ont genre deux ans. 20. J'étais mort(e) de rire. 22. Oui, grave ! 29. Je sais c'est où. 30. Ah oui, sérieux ? 32. Il fait genre "ah oui"? 34. Tu sais y'a quoi dedans? 36. C'est trop bien ! 39. Jusqu'à six heures du mat. 42. Ils manquent trop de respect.	9. Obligé tu le fais ! 10. J'étais là "mais qu'est-ce qu'elle a fait !!!" 13. Elle est fraîche.	1. C'est un bolos. 6. Il est sociable de ouf. 11. Il t'a parlé wesh ! 16. Deux semaines après on reparlait normal. 18. Mais regarde, téma ça ! 19. Je te dis la vérité, frère ! 21. Il était coincé comme aç. 26. Arrête de mytho ! 28. Il avait le seum. 31. Avec ma daronne. 35. Tu fais des bruits chelou. 38. Ils trainaient dans des gares et tout. 40. Ça passe crème. 41. Il a fait style il me voyait pas. 45. On est chez wam.

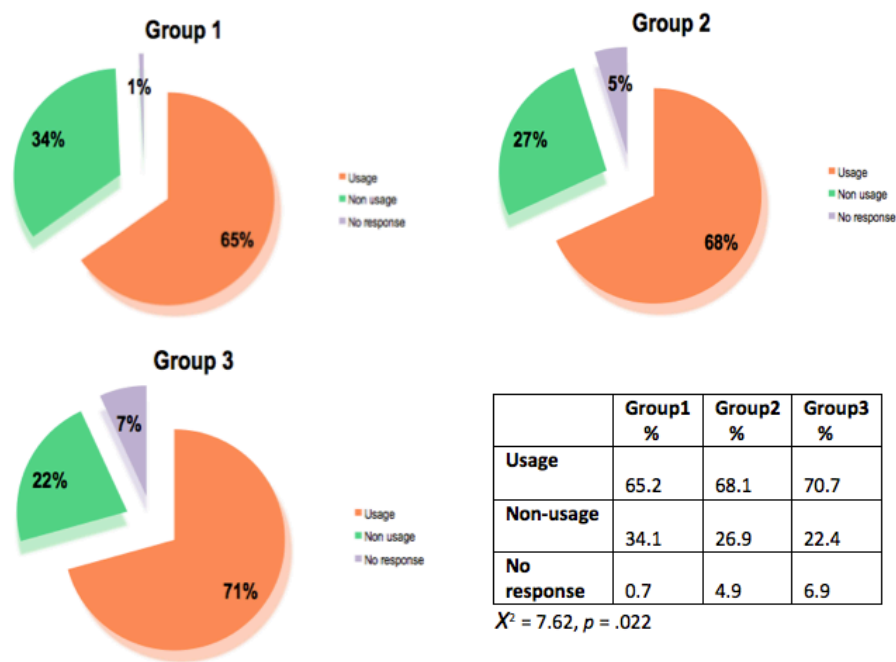
The responses show pupils' awareness of different registers and contexts of use. The column representing the widest context of use (i.e. use with *everyone*) contains predominantly grammatical and discourse features, with the exception of some widespread slang terms such as *swag* ('style') and *que dalle* ('nothing'). Significantly, this column also includes all of the *in-situ* questions used (i.e. *je vois pas c'est qui*, *je sais c'est où* and *tu sais y'a quoi dedans*), suggesting that this grammatical innovation is widespread and has unrestricted contexts of use. The same is true for discourse-pragmatic innovations such as discourse marker *genre* and quotative *faire genre*, reported as used with everyone. Such expressions do not appear to be marked or stigmatised in this community. The 'friends only' column contains predominantly slang expressions, including verlan (e.g. *de ouf*, *comme aç*, *chez wam*, *chelou*).

Appendix (A3) shows that most innovative expressions are reported to be used both orally and in writing, while only a minority are said to be used only orally. However, one limitation of this study is that we cannot be certain how 'writing' was interpreted, as a broad definition of it nowadays includes a variety of forms and modes (text messages, emails, tweets), and pupils may have interpreted writing in that way.

4.1.5 Distribution according to ethnic background

Table 4 outlines the distribution of answers on self-reported use according to the respondents' ethnic backgrounds. As in the overall MPF project, the respondents were divided into 3 groups according to their ethnic origin: local French (group 1, both parents born in France), mixed (group 2, parents of different ethnic origins) and immigrant (group 3, parents of same origin born outside France). While all groups reported using sentences similar to those illustrated in the questionnaire, there were some small but significant differences in rates of reported use. The frequency of use increases incrementally from group 1 (65%) to group 3 (71%), as shown by the combined rates for the answers *frequently* and *occasionally*⁷. The table shows that the most prolific reported users are speakers with an immigrant background, which is consistent with the results of the overall project for certain types of innovation, namely in grammar (see Gardner-Chloros and Secova, 2018).

Table (4): Self-reported use by ethnicity



Some expressions are reported as never or rarely used across all groups (e.g. *méga malade*, *vachement loin*), which shows that the three groups share

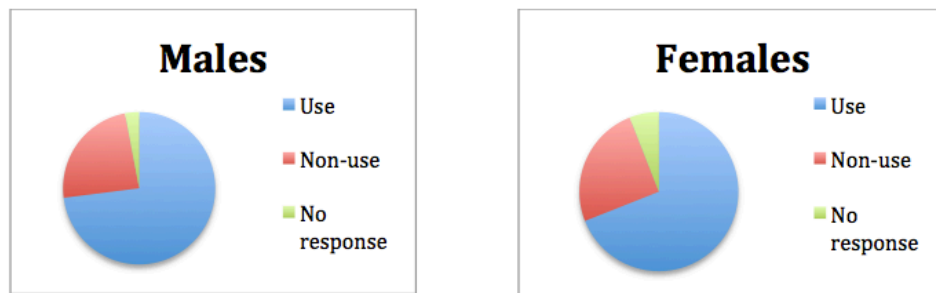
⁷ Here, we are interested in the reported *use* vs. *non-use* of innovative features, hence the combined rates for these categories.

some common views. However, some items reported as frequent in groups 2 and 3 were not as frequent in group 1 (e.g. *wesh*, *krari*, ‘like/as if’, *tchoin*, ‘slag’, *terre-terre*, ‘territory/ends’), suggesting that some expressions may be socially or geographically more marked than others.

4.1.6 Distribution by gender

There was no significant gender difference in rates of use, with the majority of expressions reported as being used *frequently* or *occasionally* (69% among female and 73% among male respondents). The slightly higher rate of use for males may indicate, similarly to previous research (e.g. Trudgill 1972, Labov 1990), that men tend to favour vernacular/stigmatised variants more often than women.

Table (5): Self-reported use by gender



	M (%)	F (%)
Use	73	69
Non-use	24	25
No response	3	6

$\chi^2 = 1.1331, p = .567484$

Table (6). Percentage of responses across modes of production

Gender	Both oral and written %	Oral only %	No response %
F	32	24	44
M	33	24	44

Table (7). Percentage of responses according to interlocutor

Gender	Everyone %	Family & friends %	Friends only %	No response %
F	16	17	24	43
M	33	11	24	33

With regard to contexts of use, most innovative expressions were reported as used both orally and in writing, with similar rates for males and females (33% and 32%, respectively). The male respondents had a greater number of expressions that they reported using with ‘everyone’ (33% compared to 16% among women), implying greater differentiation by females of sociolinguistic registers and contexts of use. However, as explained above, some items on the questionnaire were gender-marked or more likely to be uttered by males (e.g. *frère, gros, elle est fraîche*), which could explain the higher rate of non-response from females overall, as well as just in this category (6% compared to 3% for males overall, and 43% compared to 33% for males in this category).

4.2 Qualitative observations on self-reported usage

The pupils’ familiarity with the investigated features is also evidenced in their open comments. Some, for example, corrected what they considered grammatical or spelling errors, suggested alternative spelling or synonyms, or commented on the derogatory character of some items (*‘j’aime pas dire ‘daronne’, je trouve que c’est irrespectueux envers ma mère’*). While most expressions were reported as frequent, a minority were perceived as outdated, in which case alternative forms were often offered (e.g. *grave, archi* or *de ouf* instead of *vachement*).

The open comments further suggest that some words may be more strongly associated with the suburban youth vernacular or have more restricted contexts of use. Examples included words such as *terre-terre*, used only ‘in a mocking context when imitating a banlieue accent’ (*‘uniquement pour rigoler en imitant l’accent banlieusard’*), *wesh*, used ‘only when annoyed’ (*‘seulement en cas d’énervement’*) or ‘to imitate people who use it’ (*‘j’utilise le wesh pour imiter les personnes qui l’utilisent’*), or *krari*, associated with ‘people living on an estate’ (*‘trop “gens de cité”’*). Such evaluative comments were offered almost exclusively by females, potentially implying greater sensitivity to sociolinguistic variation and avoidance of stigmatised forms.

Overall, lexical features appear to be the most salient in terms of conscious awareness, as they attracted most of the open comments in the questionnaire. This is consistent with previous research on lexical differences (between language varieties), considered ‘highly salient and readily apparent to all speakers of the varieties concerned without any linguistic training or analysis’

(Trudgill 1986). Colloquial vocabulary and slang items are usually considered an intrinsic part of the youth repertoire, but they are perhaps also the shortest-lived form of innovation. This is confirmed in some comments for items that are no longer considered popular (e.g. *le mot 'méga' il est mort*) or items that are confined regionally (e.g. *jamais entendu le mot 'tchoin'*).

The pupils' metalinguistic awareness of pragmatic features was more limited than that of lexical features, with some pupils commenting on lexical choices even in examples that targeted grammatical and discourse features. While efforts were made to direct the pupils' attention to the feature of interest, it was impossible to avoid some distractors. Despite this, many respondents provided relevant comments, especially on more widespread features such as discourse-marker *genre* (e.g. *je dis 'genre' au début des phrases*), quotative *être là* (e.g. *le 'être là' est indispensable pour une conversation*), general extender *et tout* (e.g. *'utilisation de 'et tout' dans la narration d'histoires'*), and even address terms such as *frère*. The latter was reported frequent even among females, and even when their interlocutors are also females. This recalls findings for the address term *man* used among females in London, suggesting that there may be cross-linguistic similarities in socio-pragmatic pressures affecting language change.

4.3 Reactions to stimuli

Part (B) of the questionnaire investigated speakers' opinions on five recordings characteristic of the MPF corpus. Qualitative data of this type can be useful in revealing language ideologies, meaning societal constructs which are subtly distinct from attitudes. Pupils were asked to comment specifically on the pronunciation / accent of the recorded speakers (Appendix B). Recall Table (2) which outlines the most salient features of the extracts, as well as the degree to which these speakers use MPF features. Transcripts of these passages can be found in Appendix (C).

Confirming the fact that this technique taps into a broader understanding of speakers' values, it was notable that despite the instructions given, many respondents did not provide explicit comments on the speakers' pronunciation, but made more general observations about their identity and socio-demographic characteristics. Some pupils specifically commented on other linguistic areas such as grammar, register and vocabulary. The comments provided were grouped into major recurring themes, as outlined in Table (8). In Table (9), we set out the

percentage of comments on specific themes in each recording, and we discuss the most relevant ones below.

Table (8): Themes in the open comments

Themes	Comment types (original spelling maintained)
Pronunciation	<i>mauvaise, hachée, bégaiement, mauvaise, rapide, répétition, phrase coupée, phrase non terminée, mauvaise articulation, ton agressif, ton incisif, hésitations, parle doucement</i>
Age	<i>jeune, petit, 16 ans, 17 ans, 18 ans, vieille, au moins 12 ans, 15 ans, 13 ans, 14 ans</i>
Location	<i>92, martinique, guadeloupe, accent étranger, origine, paris, Paris 16th arrondissement, mec du 92, meuf du 93, province, comme dans le 93, parisienne, accent du sud</i>
Ethnic affiliation	<i>noir, renoi, africain, arabe, babtou, zoulou, pure française, tissme, métisse, sri-lankaise</i>
Socio-economic group	<i>banlieue, quartier, cité, racaille, bourgeois, banlieusard, comme des gens de rue, gens de cité, jeunes de quartier</i>
Language register	<i>familier, courant</i>
Appraisals	<i>bolos, boloss, pelo, forceur, bouffon, ca fait tiep, pas marrant, loozer, fragile, fais trop la meuf fragile, elle se vante trop, voix de taspe, coince, k-sos / casos, bolossa, craneuse, pas de caractère, babtou qui se fait pas respecter, fragile level infini, personnes qui travaillent sérieusement (boloss), chipie, costaud, miskina j'ai pitié, molle</i>
Authenticity (positive)	<i>entendu quotidiennement, très compréhensible, parle comme quelqu'un de normal, j'entends souvent des gens parler comme ça, il parle normal, il parle tranquille, à l'aise, il parle normal parfait, à la mode, trop normal, il parle couramment, normalement, rien à dire, toutes les filles parlent comme ça, plus compréhensible de tous</i>
Authenticity (negative)	<i>pas naturel, forceur, expression non existante, has been, on dit "...", parle pas normalement, il force trop, je le dis jamais, incompréhension, mise en scène, pas de fluidité, il essaie de parler normalement, il parle o kalm, elle parle un peu trop bien</i>
Social distance (positive)	<i>je parle de la même façon, il parle un peu comme nous</i>
Social distance (negative)	<i>il est pas comme nous, il parle pas comme chez nous, parle pas comme les jeunes d'aujourd'hui, elle parle pas comme nous du tout, elle soule, accent type d'une fille de banlieue, banlieusard, elle parle comme une bourgeoise, spécifique de jeunes filles d'origine étrangère</i>
Grammatical corrections	<i>fautes de français, juxtaposition phrase, accumulation, elle ne parle pas français, parle pas correctement français</i>
Communicative function	<i>discours rapporté, commérage, interview, discussion, narration</i>

Table (9): Comments on recordings

Themes	Rec1	Rec2	Rec3	Rec4	Rec5
Pronunciation	5,71	7,14	6,43	5,71	8,57
Age group	0,71	0,71	2,86	3,81	5,71
Socio economic group	5,00	4,29	2,86	0,95	0,00
Ethnic affiliation	2,86	11,43	14,29	14,29	12,38
Location	2,14	1,43	0,71	1,90	2,86
Language register	2,14	0,71	0,00	0,00	0,00
Appraisals	8,57	4,29	14,29	1,90	18,10
Authenticity (negative)	13,57	0,71	0,71	0,00	0,00
Authenticity (positive)	3,57	2,86	2,14	18,10	1,90
Social distance (negative)	1,43	3,57	0,00	0,00	0,95
Social distance (positive)	1,43	4,29	1,43	3,81	1,90
Gram / Voc.	0,00	1,43	0,00	1,90	0,95
Communicative function	0,00	1,43	0,00	0,00	46,67
No response	52,86	55,71	29,29	47,62	5,71

Social and ethnic origin

One recurrent theme was ethnicity, sometimes conflated with other social and geographical categorisations related to the speaker's perceived identity. These comments were particularly common among pupils of mixed heritage or of immigrant origin, who distinguished between speakers perceived as 'white', 'posh' or 'upper-class' and those perceived as Arab or African (e.g. *'c'est une bابتou'*⁸, *'pure française'*, *'une vraie bourgeoise'* vs. *'perso elle parle comme moi peut-être une africaine ou arabe'*). The former were often perceived as less streetwise and less "cool" (e.g. *'fragile'*, *'boloss'*⁹, *'coincé'*, *'on dirait une bourgeoise'*, *'une bolossa'*, *'elle parle comme une vieille'*, *'bابتou qui se fait pas respecter'*), while if someone was perceived as black, mixed or of Arab descent, this was generally endorsed as legitimate and commented upon in positive terms (e.g. *'ça va lui au moins il force pas - tismé'*¹⁰, *'il parle normal parfait arabe'*, *'c'est un noir toujours, il parle comme tous les jeunes'*). Specifically, Samuel in Recording (4) was described as speaking like a local person from a *banlieue*, whereas Fatima and Mouna (Recording 3 and 5) were perceived as posh white Parisians, although in fact, they were both of immigrant descent and lived in the *banlieue*. Overall, the results show some ethnic differentiation, whereby the language of majority speakers is generally rejected and perceived in negative terms. However, in some

⁸ *Bابتou* / verlan for *toubab* (slang) - White person

⁹ *Boloss* (slang) – weak person, victim, loser

¹⁰ *Tismé* - verlan for *'métisse'*

cases, negative stereotypes were also used in descriptions of the speakers who spoke the local *banlieue* vernacular, such as Aimée, although these were not as frequent (e.g. *'elles parlent comme dans le 93, ça s'entend que c'est une racaille'*). A disadvantage of using authentic extracts is that some reactions might be ascribed to the content of what is said rather than the speech characteristics, as in the case of a young girl who came in for negative appraisal, who had been saying her mother always worried about her when she went out, and so did not come across as streetwise. In addition to content and speech characteristics, such findings could also be partly related to the speaker's gender and age, together having an impact on how he or she is perceived. A younger female voice may inevitably be perceived as less streetwise than an older male voice (see Laur 2008 for a discussion of gender in speaker perceptions).

Authenticity

As mentioned above, the speakers' perceived immigrant origin was also associated with being authentic, as in the case of Samuel in Recording 4 (e.g. *'il parle normalement, mes amies et moi-même parlons comme ça', 'il parle comme tous les jeunes'*). On the other hand, the most standard speakers were perceived as linguistically inauthentic, of a different ethnicity and living in a different geographical area (e.g. *'elle parle pas comme nous du tout elle saoule', 'elle parle comme une vieille', 'on dirait une parisienne'*). However, sometimes even a speaker who shared local, vernacular features, such as Nizar in Recording (1), was described in negative terms. Most respondents who commented on his speech argued that it was not or not completely authentic (perhaps due to his vocabulary perceived as out-dated) and described him as a *'forceur'* or a *'gros forceur'* ('somebody who tries too hard to be cool').

Correctness

Another recurrent theme was the speakers' perceived 'correctness', with respondents of local French origin providing most linguistic comments. The respondents often commented on particular ways of speaking, accent, pronunciation or register (e.g. *'elle n'articule pas et son registre est familier', 'mots mal articulés, toujours le même ton'; 'beaucoup de répétitions'; 'bégaiement, mots hachés, prononciation un peu trop rapide'*). Again, correctness

is closely intertwined with ethnicity and authenticity: the default variety, described as 'normal' and 'common' - especially among multicultural respondents - is the suburban vernacular (e.g. *'il parle couramment, normalement, rien de spécial, on dirait un arabe', 'il a pas d'accent'*). The link between correctness and geographical origin was also evident in some comments which explicitly touched upon linguistic standards, indicating that speaking 'too well' may not be considered correct or authentic in the community under investigation (e.g. *'elle parle pas correctement français', 'c'est une parisienne elle parle un peu trop bien à mon goût'*).

This topic was touched upon again in an informal, non-technical lecture on sociolinguistic variation that the pupils were given after the survey. In the course of this, pupils were presented with two variant forms of indirect questions: *je sais pas ce que c'est* vs. *je sais pas c'est quoi*. The two variants sparked lively reactions, with most participants, despite the school setting, rejecting the traditional word order (the first sentence) which they described as 'too French', too '*fragile*' (i.e. pity-inducing, see www.valantine.fr/langage-jeunes/), and adding that they themselves would not use it. The sentence with the post-verb *wh*-form, on the other hand, was described as one that 'sounds better' (*ça passe mieux*) and is quicker and easier to say. This is particularly indicative of the fact that standard varieties tend to hold less value in suburban youth communities and traditional values may actually be reversed.

5. Discussion and concluding remarks

The results of the questionnaire and reactions to the recordings analysed here were designed to test pupils' attitudes towards innovations which many of them used themselves. Methodologically speaking, the combination of the following three factors represents a new contribution to the field: (1) a mixture of direct or explicit methods (questionnaire) and indirect, implicit methods (eliciting reactions to recordings); (2) asking pupils to react to speakers essentially similar to themselves; (3) directing pupils to comment on specific linguistic features in terms of their own propensity to use these features, and the context in which they would do so.

This study is also unusual among attitudinal studies of Paris French in exploring grammatical and lexical variables along with phonological ones. The

decision to examine attitudes to accent on the basis of natural speech samples contrasts with earlier studies where phonology was kept separate from other aspects (for example, by presenting participants with a word list). While a purely phonological study can go into greater detail, the approach taken here allows for a more holistic view of attitudes towards the relevant variants.

The results show that respondents not only express affiliation/disaffiliation with individual linguistic features, but also – a more unusual finding – that they appear to have in their minds an image of the speakers who use these features. The combination of methods chosen here allowed us to confirm the results of other studies which show that language plays a crucial role in the construction of youth identity along different social and linguistic dimensions.

We noted also that speakers have different degrees of conscious awareness of specific linguistic features. Lexical features are the most readily enregistered¹¹ and commented upon, grammatical and discourse features being less salient. However, the grammatical and discourse features also obtain positive scores, with participants confirming that they use such structures. A noteworthy example concerns *in situ* indirect questions. The results here, in line with the results in Gardner-Chloros and Secova (2018), show that these questions are favoured by certain speakers (males, especially those with a multi-ethnic background) and occur in specific syntactic contexts (short clauses).

It was further established that some items on the questionnaire index strong affiliative and disaffiliative attitudes. Despite being in the normative environment of their school, participants generally did not criticise features which are stigmatised by the teaching establishment; in fact, several such features elicited positive attitudes and enjoyed a level of prestige. Naturally we cannot be sure to what extent our participants were aware of the stigmatisation of such terms in the broader (or more conventional) French context; but this exercise should lead us to reflect further on the overt/covert prestige distinction and its relevance or otherwise to working class dynamics (Woolard 1985; cf. also Lee 1999). The traditional distinction suggests a double awareness of two sets of standards, the prestige accorded by conventional social forces and the transgressive prestige of linguistic features used by certain speakers within the

¹¹ In the sense of sociolinguistic *enregisterment* (Agha 2003, Johnstone 2016).

community which carry connotations of (traditionally masculine) ‘*bad boy*’ strength and affiliation (Gordon 1997). These may be accorded status as markers of ingroup loyalty (Marlow and Giles, 2008), and speakers who use covert prestige variants do not necessarily positively evaluate the overt prestige variant - as is indeed the case here. In this, our results differ from those of other attitude studies in which the most standard speakers are rated highly for ‘competence’, whereas other sociolects are rated for more human qualities like ‘integrity’, ‘attractiveness’, or more generally ‘solidarity’ (Preston 2004: 42).

The acid test is of course the extent to which not only the usage, but also the attitudes of young people such as these are drivers of actual sociolinguistic change. A good comparison is provided by Kristiansen (2001), who found that young Danes are bringing about change in the notion of *Standard* Danish through their acceptance of features of ‘low’ Copenhagen speech. Kristiansen noted that they rated users of the ‘low’ variants highly on the ‘dynamism’ scale, as opposed to the ‘superiority’ scale which no longer reflects their priorities so well (see also Marlow and Giles 2008).

In terms of identity, most participants in this study similarly reject what they see as the affluent ‘Parisian’ persona, describing it as ‘fragile’ and ‘boloss’. The distinction is clearly felt between ‘posh’ people living in inner Paris and those in the *banlieues*, or more restrictively the *cités* (housing estates). This is in line with much of previous work that stresses the importance of language as a marker of youth identity, and as a powerful tool used to include or exclude out-group members (Tagliamonte 2016: 3). The differentiation is made not only along geographical and social lines, but also, to a great extent, along ethnic lines. In one conversation in the MPF corpus, two females aged 14, living in a north-western suburb of Paris, described the labels used at school by and for their peers; most of these geographical and identity categories intersected with ethnicity. For instance, boys living in affluent inner Paris were described as *mécheux* (i.e. as having a long, floppy fringe¹²) as opposed to those with *swag* (generally ‘style’, but more specifically rapper style). The girls further explained that a young black or Arab man could not be a *mécheux* (due to their hair type) and conversely, it was difficult for a white Parisian guy to have *swag*. Such binary distinctions underscore what has been called a *fracture linguistique et sociale* (Goudailler

¹² See the results for ‘*mécheux*’ and ‘*swag*’ in Google images.

1996): a negative term referring to a split between geographically and socially isolated (sub)urban communities and those in affluent urban areas, leading to the values of the latter not being relevant to understanding the behaviour of the former.

Part (B) of the study, eliciting attitudes towards recordings from the MPF corpus, confirms the extent to which language plays a role in the construction of a streetwise youth identity. As social psychology has shown, respondents typically hold more favourable attitudes towards speakers who are perceived as ingroup members than those perceived as an outgroup (Dragojevic and Giles 2014, Hewstone *et al.* 2002). We might even say that the in-group defines what is considered 'right': the most standard speaker in the sample was described as *not* speaking 'correctly', suggesting that the status of the mainstream variety is somehow reversed, and traditional 'French' culture and linguistic standards are rejected. This casts a linguistic light on research showing that speakers from immigrant backgrounds experience a decreased sense of belonging to their host society and experience alienation – an alienation which can be alleviated by identification with other similar speakers (Giles and Rakic 2014). This can also be viewed in the context of broader discussions of 'demoticization' (Mattheier 1997). Unlike 'destandardization', in which the standard ideology is gradually eroded, this term describes situations where the 'standard ideology' as such remains in place, but other ways of speaking are no longer valued in the same way (Coupland and Kristiansen, 2011: 28).

Our results show that language is crucial in determining the way in which speakers in this context are perceived and accepted. This finding emerged intriguingly in certain cases where the ethnic origin of the speaker was identified incorrectly, when the speaker did not use a variety/style that was stereotypically associated with his or her ethnic profile. Attitudes to speech varieties are of course only one aspect of reactions to individuals in face to face encounters, and of attitudes more generally. But we would argue that a mixed methodology such as this, which investigates attitudes both explicitly and implicitly, can provide valuable information on the broader interplay of social and linguistic factors in language change, and on the complex priorities of the speakers involved.

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APPENDIX (A1): Questionnaire: accompanying question for each sentence

Voici une liste des phrases tirées des enregistrements de jeunes Parisiens. Cochez la case qui correspond à votre usage personnel :

Utiliseriez-vous une telle phrase ? Cochez plusieurs cases le cas échéant:

1) *C'est un bolos.*

☐ Fréquemment

☐ De temps en temps

☐ Jamais

☐ Avec tout le monde, adultes ou jeunes

☐ Uniquement en famille ou entre ami(e)s

☐ Uniquement entre ami(e)s

☐ A l'écrit comme à l'oral

☐ Uniquement à l'oral

Autre commentaire?.....

APPENDIX (A2): Questionnaire items and results for self-reported use

Item	Feature type (V= vocabulary, G= grammar, D= discourse)	Standardised score of use (Frequently:1 to Never: -1)
1.C'est un <u>bolos</u> .	V	0.18
2.Je <u>crois il</u> veut venir avec nous.	G	-0.09
3.Il a une taille normale pour un <u>keum</u> .	V	-0.36
4.C'est ceux qui s'intéressent aux <u>tchoins</u> .	V	-0.65

5. Que <u>dalle</u> !	V	0.39
6. Il est sociable <u>de ouf</u> !	V/D/G	0.09
7. C'est leur <u>terre-terre</u> là bas.	V	-0.22
8. Il s'habille bien il a du <u>swag</u> .	V	0.33
9. <u>Obligé</u> tu le fais!	V/D	0.39
10. J' <u>étais</u> là: 'mais qu'est-ce qu'elle a fait!!!'	D	0.25
11. Il t'a parlé <u>wesh</u> !	V/D	0.41
12. Je vois pas <u>c'est qui</u> .	G	0.5
13. Elle est <u>fraîche</u> .	V	0.21
14. On est parti <u>direct</u> .	G/V	0.56
15. Depuis qu'ils ont <u>genre</u> deux ans.	D	0.53
16. Deux semaines après on reparlait <u>normal</u> .	G	0.27
17. <u>Wallah</u> il y avait la télé !	V/D	-0.03
18. Mais regarde, <u>téma</u> ça !	V	0.29
19. Je te dis la vérité, <u>frère</u> !	D	0.16
20. J' <u>étais mort(e)</u> de rire.	V	0.73
21. Il était coincé comme <u>aç</u> .	V	0.15
22. Oui, <u>grave</u> !	V/D/G	0.81
23. Je suis <u>méga</u> malade.	V/D	-0.77
24. Désolé, <u>gros</u> .	V/D	-0.06
25. <u>Krari</u> vous avez parlé des filles.	V/D	-0.09
26. Arrête de <u>mytho</u> !	V	0.57
27. C'est pas bien <u>qu'est-ce que</u> tu fais !	G	-0.21
28. Il avait le <u>seum</u> .	V	0.66
29. Je sais <u>c'est où</u> .	G	0.33
30. Ah oui ? <u>Sérieux</u> ?	V/D	0.61
31. Avec ma <u>daronne</u> .	V	0.30
32. Il fait <u>genre</u> « ah oui » ?	D	0.16
33. Il y avait des gens <u>normaux</u> comme moi.	G	-0.29
34. Tu sais <u>il y a quoi</u> dedans ?	G	0.09
35. Tu fais des bruits <u>chelou</u> .	V	0.63
36. C'est <u>trop</u> bien !	D	0.44
37. Tu sais <u>elle faisait quoi</u> la mère ?	G	-0.4
38. Ils trainaient dans des gares <u>et tout</u> .	D	0.16
39. Jusqu'à six heures <u>du mat</u> .	G/V	0.74
40. Ça passe <u>crème</u> .	V	0.36
41. Il a <u>fait style</u> il me voyait pas.	D	0.24
42. Ils manquent <u>trop de respect</u> .	V	0.18

43.C'est <u>vachement</u> loin.	V	-0.14
44.C'est la fille <u>que</u> je te parlais.	G	-0.03
45.On est chez <u>wam</u> .	V	0.28

APPENDIX (A3): Questionnaire items and results for contexts of use

Item	Standardised score of use (Everyone: 1 to Friends only: -1)	Standardised score of use (Both oral and written: 1 to Oral only: -1)
1.C'est un <u>bolos</u> .	-0.32	0.05
2.Je <u>crois il</u> veut venir avec nous.	0	0.43
3.Il a une taille normale pour un <u>keum</u> .	-0.4	0.09
4.C'est ceux qui s'intéressent aux <u>tchoins</u> .	1	0
5.Que <u>dalle!</u>	0.3	-0.09
6.Il est sociable <u>de ouf!</u>	-0.25	0.1
7.C'est leur <u>terre-terre</u> là bas.	-0.25	0
8. Il s'habille bien il a du <u>swag</u> .	0.73	0.3
9. <u>Obligé</u> tu le fais!	0	0
10.J'étais là: 'mais qu'est-ce qu'elle a fait!!!'	0	-0.06
11.Il t'a parlé <u>wesh!</u>	-0.12	0.41
12.Je vois pas <u>c'est qui</u> .	0.5	0.16
13.Elle est <u>fraîche</u> .	0.09	0.16
14.On est parti <u>direct</u> .	0	0.25
15.Depuis qu'ils ont <u>genre</u> deux ans.	0.19	0.12
16.Deux semaines après on reparlait <u>normal</u> .	-0.07	0.26
17. <u>Wallah</u> il y avait la télé !	0	0
18.Mais regarde, <u>téma</u> ça !	-0.19	-0.05
19.Je te dis la vérité, <u>frère</u> !	-0.08	0.05
20.J'étais <u>mort(e)</u> de rire.	0.22	0.44
21.Il était coincé comme <u>aç</u> .	-0.27	-0.27
22.Oui, <u>grave</u> !	0.18	0.36
23.Je suis <u>méga</u> malade.	0.09	0.09
24.Désolé, <u>gros</u> .	-0.23	0.29
25. <u>Krari</u> vous avez parlé des filles.	-0.44	-0.06
26.Arrête de <u>mytho</u> !	-0.16	0.15
27.C'est pas bien <u>qu'est-ce que</u> tu fais !	0	0.38
28.Il avait le <u>seum</u> .	-0.2	0.13

29.Je sais <u>c'est où</u> .	0.33	0.2
30.Ah oui ? <u>Sérieux ?</u>	0.22	0.15
31.Avec ma <u>daronne</u> .	-0.27	0.3
32.Il <u>fait genre</u> « ah oui » ?	0.16	-0.2
33.Il y avait des gens <u>normals</u> comme moi.	-0.07	0.23
34.Tu sais il y a <u>quoi</u> dedans ?	0.5	0.53
35.Tu fais des bruits <u>chelou</u> .	-0.14	0
36.C'est <u>trop</u> bien !	0.61	0.33
37.Tu sais <u>elle faisait quoi</u> la mère ?	0.15	0.38
38.Ils traînaient dans des gares <u>et tout</u> .	-0.17	0.2
39.Jusqu'à six heures <u>du mat</u> .	0.12	0.39
40.Ça passe <u>crème</u> .	-0.17	0.3
41.Il a <u>fait style</u> il me voyait pas.	-0.17	0.1
42.Ils <u>manquent trop de respect</u> .	0.05	0.1
43.C'est <u>vachement</u> loin.	0.18	-0.07
44.C'est la fille <u>que</u> je te parlais.	-0.06	0.29
45.On est chez <u>wam</u> .	-0.24	0.14

APPENDIX (B): Questionnaire Part (B): Opinions on recordings

Remarquez vous quelque chose de particulier dans la *prononciation* de ces personnes ?

Extrait	Commentaire
1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	

5)	
----	--

APPENDIX (C): Transcripts of recordings

(1) Histoire bus

LOC1: ah ça c'est peut-être le métro londonien parce qu'à Paris tu tu tu restes coincé comme ça là (.) parce que un mec il était comme aç il courait (.) on a on a entendu 'beep' il a sauté (.) [= click] (.) il est resté coincé [= rires] (.) il est resté coincé comme ça là tu vois sur la ligne huit là [=rires, imitation] (.) on était là on le tirait à l'intérieur du truc c'était méga drôle !

ENQ: oh .

LOC1: même dans le bus là dans le cent trois [= rires] (.) j'étais à x (il) y a un mec il a fait la même il a couru il a sauté ça s'est bloqué sur sa jambe, gros, dedans (.) et un un bras seulement (..) [= rires] gros il était comme ça c'était sur sa tête il avait trop mal et nous on était à l'intérieur et on poussait sa tête (.) pour le jeter à l'extérieur du bus (..) [= rires] il faisait trop pitié (..) eh c'était méga drôle .

(2) Altercation

SP1: Il est il est venu s'excuser mais Aude l'a encore rejeté il avait le seum !

SP2: +< x en fait (.) les filles elles venaient vers moi (..) et genre et genre je les ai vues arriver vers moi et tout (.) et après j'ai vu lui il arrivait (..) et genre je l'ai regardé comme ça (..) genre en mode 'tu veux quoi' et tout [...] et après x dès que j'ai vu qu'il allait ouvrir la bouche je fais 'casse toi' !

(3) Le bulletin

LOC1: le bulletin (..) le bulletin (.) parce que moi j'ai ramené tout le temps des seize quinze de moyenne (.) et puis là (.) j'ai ramené un douze (.) donc prou- pour mes parents c'était hum ils étaient ils se sont dit "mais là y a un problème" (.) c'est peut-être parce que (.) vu que j'ai l'iPhone quatre ils se sont dit 'mais attends c'est peut être parce qu'elle a H vingt quatre quatre (..) c'est vrai que je restais H vingt quatre sur le téléphone SMS et tout (.) l'ordi aussi je restais H vingt quatre dessus .

LOC2: +< encore je vois ma soeur aussi elle est tout le temps dessus on regarde la télé je la vois elle est comme ça à côté de moi .

LOC1: ouais .

LOC2: mais ça sert à rien de x .

ENQ: xx quel âge ?

LOC2: treize ans ouais tout le temps dessus tout le temps c'est un iPod .

ENQ: x x x .

LOC2: non moi j'ai pas de portable mes parents ils veulent pas m'en acheter x que je travaille mal alors qu'avec un portable +...

LOC1: +< mais bizarre- (..) bizarrement je trouve que (.) depuis que mes parents m'ont enlevé le portable je travaille mieux (.) j'arrive plus à me concentrer en fait (..) ouais c- (.) en fin de compte je leur ai remercié parce que ça me (.) ça me hum comment dire (.) ça me ça me sert enfin c'est +...

(4) Voyages

LOC1: Y a deux endroits sur la planète qui m'ont vraiment traumatisé c'est New York et Rio de Janeiro (.) tu vois .

ENQ: Traumatisé (..) ?

LOC1: Ouais parce que c'est les endroits où je me vois trop vivre .

LOC2: Positif hein !

ENQ: <Ah d'accord !>

LOC1: <Ouais voilà> (..) mais vraiment dans le bon sens (.) mais surtout vraiment mais vraiment vraiment numéro un devant tout le monde c'est New York .

ENQ: Ouais.

LOC1: New York c'est une ville (.) moi j'aime ce qui est vivant j'aime quand ça bouge (.) j'aime quand y a du monde autour tout ça donc euh (..) .

LOC2: Brésil c'est pour les filles .

LOC1: Et Brésil c'est parce que c'est la fête des femmes ça danse ça (..) .

ENQ: (rire)

LOC1: Tu vois j'ai passé j'étais en vacances là bas et je me suis pas ennuyé une seconde (.) tu vois ?

ENQ: Ah .

LOC1: C'est fiesta tout le temps même la journée tu vois au x (.) truc de fou tout ça (.) tu t'ennuies pas (.) et New York c'est voilà c'est pareil (.) sauf que c'est dans un autre truc c'est dans le côté business .

ENQ: Ouais ?

(5) Soirées

ENQ: euh est-ce que ta mère te dit par exemple de rentrer à une heure précise ou maintenant c'est t- tu as la liberté totale de rentrer quand (tu veux) .

JUL: non non non (.) moi j'ai été oui à une soirée chez un ami .

INT: ouais .

JUL: et en fait euh je j- je dormais- j'ai pas dormi chez lui parce qu'il avait sa copine etcetera et je (voulais) pas trop dormir chez lui (.) il m'avait proposé mais j'ai pas trop voulu et alors ma mère hum c'était horrible parce que toute la soirée ma mère n'a fait que de m'appeler 'J [= nom] tu rentres dans combien de temps ?' nanana (.) et je fais 'non mais c'est bon dans dix minutes cinq minutes' (.) et en fait quand je dors pas chez des amis elle s'inquiète vraiment (.) et toutes les dix minutes elle m'a enfin un peu gâché la soirée parce que j'étais qu'au téléphone avec elle .

INT: <ouais ben ouais mmm> .

JUL: et alors 'bon ben tu rentres' et je suis rentrée avec un ami qui m'a redéposée (..).